Medical Device Alert

Ref: MDA/2011/0096  Issued: 27 September 2011 at 14:30

Device

Reusable laryngoscope handles

All models.

All manufacturers.

Problem

The MHRA has received a coroner’s report of an inquest which found that a patient death was caused by a failure to decontaminate a laryngoscope handle appropriately between each patient use. This led to cross infection and subsequently septicaemia.

Action

- Review, and if necessary update, local procedures to ensure that reusable laryngoscope handles are decontaminated appropriately between each patient use, in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

- Be aware of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI) guidelines, Infection Control in Anaesthesia 2, 2008 (external link).

Action by

Healthcare professionals using these devices and staff responsible for reprocessing medical devices.

CAS deadlines

Action underway: 11 October 2011

Action complete: 25 October 2011
Distribution

This MDA has been sent to:
- NHS trusts in England (Chief Executives)
- Care Quality Commission (CQC) (Headquarters) for information
- HSC trusts in Northern Ireland (Chief Executives)
- NHS boards in Scotland (Equipment Co-ordinators)
- Local authorities in Scotland (Equipment Co-ordinators)
- NHS boards and trusts in Wales (Chief Executives)
- Primary care trusts in England (Chief Executives)

Onward distribution
Please bring this notice to the attention of relevant employees in your establishment. Below is a suggested list of recipients.

Trusts
CAS and SABS (NI) liaison officers for onward distribution to all relevant staff including:
- A&E departments
- Adult intensive care units
- All wards
- Anaesthetists
- Coronary care departments
- Day surgery units
- ENT departments
- Infection control departments
- Intensive care units
- Maternity units
- Operating department practitioners
- Paediatric ITU
- Paramedics
- Resuscitation officers and trainers
- Risk managers
- Special care baby units
- Sterile services departments
- Supplies managers
- Theatres

Primary care trusts
CAS liaison officers for onward distribution to all relevant staff including:
- Community hospitals
- Infection control teams
- Minor injury units
- NHS walk-in centres
- Resuscitation officers and trainers

Independent distribution

Establishments registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) (England only)
This alert should be read by:
- Hospitals in the independent sector
- Independent treatment centres

Please note: CQC and OFSTED do not distribute these alerts. Independent healthcare providers and social care providers can sign up to receive MDAs directly from the Department of Health’s Central Alerting System (CAS) by sending an email to: safetyalerts@dh.gsi.gov.uk and requesting this facility.
England

If you are in England, please send enquiries about this notice to the MHRA, quoting reference number MDA/2011/096 or 2011/009/006/291/003

Technical aspects
Douglas McIvor
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Decontamination aspects
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How to report adverse incidents
Please report via our website http://www.mhra.gov.uk
Further information about CAS can be found at https://www.cas.dh.gov.uk/Home.aspx

Northern Ireland

Alerts in Northern Ireland will continue to be distributed via the NI SABS system.
Enquiries and adverse incident reports in Northern Ireland should be addressed to:

Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre
Health Estates Investment Group
Room 17
Annex 6
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Dundonald BT4 3SQ
Tel: 02890 523 704
Fax: 02890 523 900
Email: NIAIC@dhsspsni.gov.uk
http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/hea/niaic.htm
How to report adverse incidents in Northern Ireland

Please report directly to NIAIC, further information can be found on our website http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic

Further information about SABS can be found at http://sabs.dhsspsni.gov.uk/

Scotland

Enquiries and adverse incident reports in Scotland should be addressed to:

Incident Reporting and Investigation Centre
Health Facilities Scotland
NHS National Services Scotland
Gyle Square
1 South Gyle Crescent
Edinburgh EH12 9EB
Tel: 0131 275 7575
Fax: 0131 314 0722
Email: nss.iric@nhs.net


Wales

Enquiries in Wales should be addressed to:

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Senior Medical Officer
Medical Device Alerts
Welsh Assembly Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff CF10 3NQ
Tel: 029 2082 3922
Email: Haz-Aic@wales.gsi.gov.uk